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11th May 2022

Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 20128/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number and the percentage of clinical psychologist students at PhD level who are sponsored by the HSE who continue to work in the public sector for at least five years following the completion of their studies; the terms associated with the HSE sponsorship of clinical psychologist students; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Rose Conway-Walsh

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh,


The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

This information is not readily available. The terms of the type of contract wherein a clinical psychologist student is to provide payback after the completion of their PhD, covers a period of three years following qualification. Additionally this is only a requirement where there is vacant post available. Over the last five or more years due to difficulties with the process of getting approvals the HSE have not been in a position to offer employment at the time of completion of their trainee contract in effect releasing them from their payback condition. This process of following through on post qualification employment was and is to become part of the remit of the national Office as recommended in the 2020 report which can be viewed at the following link;

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/eligibility-criteria/psychology-report-jan-2021.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvonne O'Neill", written over a horizontal line.

Yvonne O'Neill,
Interim National Director,
Community Operations